

What is claimed is:

1 **1.** A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first physician who has been
 2 engaged in a consultation with a second physician via an intermediary, the intermediary
 3 being connected by a telecommunications system to both the first and second physicians,
 4 the method comprising the steps performed in the intermediary of:

5 receiving a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications
 6 system from the second physician; and

7 providing the comment to a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is
 8 neither the first nor the second physician, the medical information specialist indicating
 9 continuing medical education credit for the first physician based at least on the comment in a
 10 database accessible from the intermediary.

1 **2.** The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the
 2 method further comprises the steps of:

3 retrieving instructional material relevant to the comment and the consultation from the
 4 information data base and

5 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications
 6 system,

7 the step of retrieving instructional material being performed by the medical information expert.

1 **3.** The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the

2 method further comprises the steps of:

3 providing an examination based on at least the instructional material via the
4 telecommunications system;

5 receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the
6 telecommunications system;

7 grading the received answers; and

8 if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical education
9 credit.

1 4. The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein
2 the method further comprises the steps of:

3 providing an examination based on at least the comment to the first physician via the
4 telecommunications system;

5 receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the
6 telecommunications system;

7 grading the received answers; and

8 if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical
9 education credit.

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